

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6706

To improve purchasing of food by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2025

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To improve purchasing of food by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Enabling Farmer,
5 Food worker, Environmental, and Climate Targets
6 through Innovative, Values-aligned, and Equitable Food
7 Procurement Act” or the “EFFECTIVE Food Procure-
8 ment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that the Department of Agriculture,
3 as one of the largest food purchasers in the world, has
4 the responsibility and opportunity to help spur a more
5 just, healthy, and sustainable food system by purchasing
6 more foods that support—

- 7 (1) regional and resilient food economies;
- 8 (2) worker well-being;
- 9 (3) a safe and healthy environment;
- 10 (4) equity and inclusion;
- 11 (5) fairness for family farms, fishing busi-
12 nesses, and ranches; and
- 13 (6) animal welfare.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) BEGINNING FARMER, FISHERMAN, OR
17 RANCHER.—The term “beginning farmer, fisherman,
18 or rancher” means a person that—

19 (A)(i) has not operated a farm, fishing
20 business, or ranch; or

21 (ii) has operated a farm, fishing business,
22 or ranch for not more than 10 years; and

23 (B) meets such other criteria as the Sec-
24 retary may establish.

25 (2) COVERED AUTHORITY.—The term “covered
26 authority” means—

1 (A) section 32 of the Act of August 24,
2 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c);

3 (B) the matter under the heading “RE-
4 MOVAL OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-
5 ITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL
6 MARKETING SERVICE” in title I of Public Law
7 88–250 (7 U.S.C. 612c–1);

8 (C) section 10603 of the Farm Security
9 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C.
10 612c–4);

11 (D) section 4404 of the Food, Conserva-
12 tion, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 612c–
13 5);

14 (E) section 14222 of that Act (7 U.S.C.
15 612c–6); and

16 (F) any other purchasing authority of the
17 Department of Agriculture.

18 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
19 tity” means a nonprofit organization or a for-profit
20 organization that is a processor, distributor, or a
21 food hub that sources at least 51 percent of its value
22 from covered producers.

23 (4) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered
24 producer” means—

1 (A) a beginning farmer, fisherman, or
2 rancher;

3 (B) a veteran farmer, fisherman, or ranch-
4 er;

5 (C) a socially disadvantaged farmer, fisher-
6 man, or rancher; or

7 (D) a producer on a small or medium-sized
8 farm or ranch.

9 (5) FISHING BUSINESS.—The term “fishing
10 business” means a business engaged in commercial
11 fishing (as defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Ste-
12 vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
13 U.S.C. 1802)).

14 (6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
15 means an Indian tribe included on the list published
16 by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104
17 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of
18 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

19 (7) NATIVE ALASKAN.—The term “Native Alas-
20 kan” has the meaning given the term “Native” in
21 section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
22 Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

23 (8) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term “Native Ha-
24 waiian” has the meaning given the term in section

1 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and
2 Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221).

3 (9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
4 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
5 is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
6 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
7 section 501(a) of such Code.

8 (10) POLICY TO LIMIT DEFORESTATION.—The
9 term “policy to limit deforestation” means a policy
10 that includes, at a minimum, the following:

11 (A) Measures to identify the point of origin
12 of forest-risk commodities and ensure compli-
13 ance with the policy when supply chain risks
14 are present.

15 (B) Data detailing the complete list of di-
16 rect and indirect suppliers and supply chain
17 traceability information for each forest-risk
18 commodity found in products that may be fur-
19 nished to the Federal Government, including—

20 (i) refineries, processing plants,
21 farms, and plantations;

22 (ii) the respective owners, parent enti-
23 ties, and farmers of the entities described
24 in clause (i);

25 (iii) maps; and

1 (iv) geolocations.

2 (C) Measures taken to ensure that each
3 commodity described in subparagraph (B) does
4 not contribute to deforestation.

5 (D) Measures taken to ensure the process
6 of obtaining the free, prior, and informed con-
7 sent of indigenous peoples and local commu-
8 nities directly affected by the production of
9 commodities described in subparagraph (B).

10 (E) Measures taken to protect biodiversity
11 and prevent the poaching of wildlife and trade
12 in bushmeat in all operations and areas adja-
13 cent to the production of commodities described
14 in subparagraph (B).

15 (F) Measures taken to ensure compliance
16 with the laws of countries where forest-risk
17 commodities in the supply chain of the con-
18 tractor are produced.

19 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
20 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

21 (12) SMALL OR MEDIUM-SIZED FARM OR
22 RANCH.—The term “small or medium-sized farm or
23 ranch” means a farm or ranch that—

24 (A) has an annual gross cash farm income
25 of less than \$999,999; or

1 (B) meets another acreage-based definition
 2 of “small” or “medium”, as determined by the
 3 Secretary, that takes into consideration—

4 (i) the State or region in which the
 5 farm or ranch is located;

6 (ii) the production system of the farm
 7 or ranch; or

8 (iii) both.

9 (13) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER, FISH-
 10 ERMAN, OR RANCHER.—The term “socially dis-
 11 advantaged farmer, fisherman, or rancher” means a
 12 farmer, operator of a fishing business, or rancher
 13 who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group
 14 (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agri-
 15 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
 16 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

17 (14) TRADEOFF PROCESS.—The term “tradeoff
 18 process” means a tradeoff process described in part
 19 15.101–1 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (or
 20 a successor regulation).

21 (15) VETERAN FARMER, FISHERMAN, OR
 22 RANCHER.—The term “veteran farmer, fisherman,
 23 or rancher” means a farmer, operator of a fishing
 24 business, or rancher who has served in the Armed

1 Forces (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United
2 States Code) and who—

3 (A) has not operated a farm, fishing busi-
4 ness, or ranch;

5 (B) has operated a farm, fishing business,
6 or ranch for not more than 10 years; or

7 (C) is a veteran (as defined in that section)
8 who has first obtained status as a veteran (as
9 so defined) during the most recent 10-year pe-
10 riod.

11 (16) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—The term
12 “certification program” means a program that uses
13 qualified, independent auditors to carry out routine,
14 in-person or on-farm assessments of a producer or
15 business’s compliance with publicly available stand-
16 ards that are developed with input from key stake-
17 holders and subject matter experts and exceed con-
18 ventional industry standards and applicable Federal
19 or State legal requirements.

20 **SEC. 4. FAIR FOOD PROCUREMENT.**

21 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the requirements
22 described in subsection (b) are—

23 (1) to strengthen the resilience of the domestic
24 food system;

1 (2) to create more opportunities for covered
2 producers;

3 (3) to expand the choices available to school
4 food authorities and food banks participating in the
5 commodity procurement programs of the Depart-
6 ment of Agriculture; and

7 (4) to expand workplace protections in the food
8 supply chains of the Federal Government.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In the procurement of foods
10 under a covered authority, the Secretary shall make avail-
11 able and purchase a sufficient variety of—

12 (1) foods that support equity and inclusion, in-
13 cluding—

14 (A) foods that are produced by, covered
15 producers, or sourced from, covered entities;
16 and

17 (B) foods that accommodate people with
18 religious or restricted diets;

19 (2) foods that support diversified and resilient
20 supply chains, including—

21 (A) foods that are produced by, covered
22 producers, or sourced from, covered entities;

23 (B) foods that are produced by, or sourced
24 from, agricultural cooperatives, producer asso-

1 ciations, or food hubs that principally work with
2 covered producers;

3 (C) foods that are produced by a certified
4 organic farm (as defined in section 2103 of the
5 Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
6 U.S.C. 6502)); and

7 (D) foods that are produced by a farm
8 participating in an independent animal welfare
9 certification program;

10 (3) foods that support worker well-being, in-
11 cluding—

12 (A) foods that are sourced from vendors
13 with employees who are represented by a collec-
14 tive bargaining agreement or memorandum of
15 understanding;

16 (B) foods that are sourced from vendors
17 participating in a worker justice certification
18 program; and

19 (C) foods that are sourced from vendors
20 that have signed a labor peace agreement with
21 a bona fide labor union; and

22 (4) foods that mitigate the impacts on climate
23 change, including—

24 (A) foods that are produced using agricul-
25 tural practices that measurably reduce green-

1 house gas emissions and increase on-farm diver-
2 sification and resilience to climate impacts, in-
3 cluding perennial-based systems, crop rotations,
4 and ecologically managed pasture-based live-
5 stock;

6 (B) foods that are sourced from suppliers
7 with a policy to limit deforestation;

8 (C) foods that emit less greenhouse gas
9 emissions throughout the lifecycle of the prod-
10 uct, relative to nutritionally similar foods; and

11 (D) foods that provide environmental co-
12 benefits that increase climate resilience, such
13 as—

14 (i) improving soil health and water
15 quality;

16 (ii) increasing biodiversity and water
17 conservation;

18 (iii) reducing the spread of invasive
19 species; and

20 (iv) preserve native ecosystems.

21 (c) BASELINE REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
23 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
25 and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

1 (1) the percentage of the total annual spending
2 of the Department of Agriculture spent on pur-
3 chasing foods in each category of foods listed in
4 paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b), includ-
5 ing a record of each purchase the Department made
6 under each category that lists—

7 (A) the name of each supplier, distributor,
8 processor, and producer involved in the provi-
9 sion of the food product;

10 (B) the total contract obligation; and

11 (C) a description of the food purchased;

12 (2) an estimate, developed in consultation with
13 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
14 Agency, of the greenhouse gas emissions associated
15 with the production of food purchased or procured
16 by the Department of Agriculture;

17 (3) targets to increase by calendar year 2032,
18 to the maximum extent practicable, the percentage
19 of the annual food spending by the Department of
20 Agriculture in each category of food listed in para-
21 graphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b);

22 (4) a target to reduce by calendar year 2032,
23 to the maximum extent practicable, the greenhouse
24 gas emissions associated with the annual food pur-
25 chasing by the Department of Agriculture relative to

1 calendar year 2024, in accordance with the procure-
2 ment-related targets established by Executive Order
3 14057 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to catalyzing
4 clean energy industries and jobs through Federal
5 sustainability); and

6 (5) any recommendations—

7 (A) to enhance supply chain transparency,
8 particularly for school food authorities that par-
9 ticipate in any Department of Agriculture foods
10 program;

11 (B) to restructure the commodity food pro-
12 curement programs of the Department of Agri-
13 culture to support a regional model with in-
14 creased local food purchasing, including rec-
15 ommendations for continuing and improving on
16 the Local Food Purchase Assistance Coopera-
17 tive Agreement Program; or

18 (C) to increase procurement of foods listed
19 in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b),
20 including any recommendations that would re-
21 quire new authority from Congress.

22 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, and each year there-
24 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
25 riculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
2 ate a report that includes—

3 (1) the percentage of the total annual spending
4 of the Department of Agriculture spent on pur-
5 chasing foods in each category of foods listed in
6 paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b) during
7 the previous fiscal year;

8 (2) the names of all suppliers, distributors,
9 processors, and producers involved in the provision
10 of all foods purchased under a covered authority
11 during the previous fiscal year; and

12 (3) an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions
13 associated with food purchasing by the Department
14 of Agriculture during the previous fiscal year.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
17 \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended.

18 **SEC. 5. SET-ASIDE FOR COVERED PRODUCERS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, on a competitive
20 basis, shall seek to enter into procurement contracts with
21 contracts with covered producers and covered entities.

22 (b) FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years 2026
23 through 2031, of the funds made available to the Sec-
24 retary under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935

1 (7 U.S.C. 612c), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall use
2 not less than \$2,000,000 to carry out subsection (a).

3 **SEC. 6. BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT PILOT PROGRAM;**
4 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; GRANTS.**

5 (a) BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
7 and carry out a pilot program that uses a tradeoff
8 process to select bids for food procurement contracts
9 that deliver the overall best value and target pur-
10 chases under covered authorities of foods listed in
11 paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 4(b), using
12 evaluation criteria established under paragraph (2).

13 (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF EVALUATION CRI-
14 TERIA.—The Secretary shall establish the evaluation
15 criteria described in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) after providing notice and an oppor-
17 tunity for public comment; and

18 (B) by providing opportunities for engage-
19 ment with—

20 (i) covered producers;

21 (ii) covered entities;

22 (iii) individuals who follow religious or
23 restricted diets;

24 (iv) Indian Tribes;

25 (v) Native Hawaiians;

1 (vi) Native Alaskans;

2 (vii) workers in the food system, in-
3 cluding workers employed on farms, in
4 food processing facilities and warehouses,
5 and in food transportation; and

6 (viii) entities that use commodity pro-
7 grams of the Department of Agriculture,
8 including child nutrition providers and
9 food banks.

10 (3) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall annu-
11 ally select bids under the pilot program established
12 under this subsection in an amount that is not less
13 than 20 percent of the annual food spending of the
14 Department of Agriculture under the covered au-
15 thorities.

16 (4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
17 January 1, 2026, and each year thereafter through-
18 out the duration of the pilot program under this
19 subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
20 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
21 the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the
22 House of Representatives a report describing the
23 progress of the Secretary in implementing the pilot
24 program, including—

1 (A) the number of bid solicitations selected
2 under the pilot program;

3 (B) the total amount spent by the Depart-
4 ment of Agriculture on purchases made through
5 the pilot program;

6 (C) a description of the evaluation criteria
7 established under paragraph (2); and

8 (D) an evaluation of the solicitation proc-
9 ess used for the pilot program that includes
10 input from vendors.

11 (5) TERMINATION.—The pilot program estab-
12 lished under this subsection shall terminate on the
13 date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of
14 this Act.

15 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
16 provide technical assistance to covered producers and cov-
17 ered entities to support equitable participation in the pro-
18 curement programs of the Department of Agriculture, in-
19 cluding technical assistance in obtaining necessary food
20 safety training or certification.

21 (c) GRANTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
23 a competitive grant program to assist eligible appli-
24 cants described in paragraph (5) in participating in

1 the procurement programs of the Department of Ag-
2 riculture.

3 (2) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded
4 under this subsection shall be not more than 3
5 years.

6 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under
7 this subsection may be used for any of the following
8 activities:

9 (A) To make upgrades necessary to obtain
10 food safety accreditations and audits required
11 to become a vendor for the Department of Agri-
12 culture.

13 (B) To pay for the cost of a food safety ac-
14 creditation and audit.

15 (C) To purchase liability insurance.

16 (D) To develop and execute a food safety
17 plan.

18 (4) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure
19 geographic diversity in grants awarded under this
20 subsection.

21 (5) ELIGIBILITY.—Applicants eligible for grants
22 under this subsection are—

23 (A) covered producers; and

1 (B) agricultural cooperatives, fishing co-
2 operatives, and producer associations composed
3 of covered producers.

4 (6) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—No eligible ap-
5 plicant described in paragraph (5) may receive more
6 than \$100,000 in grants under this subsection.

7 (7) REPORTS.—

8 (A) RECIPIENTS.—Not later than 1 year
9 after receiving a grant under this subsection,
10 and annually thereafter for the period of the
11 grant term, a recipient of a grant under this
12 subsection shall submit to the Secretary a re-
13 port describing—

14 (i) how the recipient used the funds;
15 and

16 (ii) the progress of the recipient to-
17 ward becoming a vendor, as described in
18 paragraph (3)(A), if applicable.

19 (B) SECRETARY.—Not later than January
20 1, 2026, and each year thereafter in which the
21 term of a grant under this subsection is ongo-
22 ing, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
23 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
24 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
25 culture of the House of Representatives a re-

1 port containing a list of the recipients of the
2 grants, including a summary of—

3 (i) how the recipients used the funds;

4 and

5 (ii) the recipients that have become

6 vendors, as described in paragraph (3)(A),

7 if applicable.

8 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available
11 through fiscal year 2031.

○